

the formulation and preparation of the final Manual directive.

(e) The final Manual directive or a summary shall be sent to those who offered comments on the proposed directive and further publicized as deemed appropriate by the responsible official.

**§216.7 Exemption of proposed Manual directives from normal procedures.**

When it is found for good cause that an exigency exists, an interim Manual directive that is determined to be of substantial public interest or expected controversy may be issued in advance of providing opportunity for public comment. However, as soon as practicable after issuance, the interim Manual directive will be made available for public review and comment as described in §216.6. In making the Manual directive available, the responsible official shall state why the interim directive was issued prior to obtaining public comments.

**§216.8 Availability of proposed Manual directives identified for formal public review.**

As a minimum, review copies of proposed Manual directives determined to be of substantial public interest or expected controversy shall be available in the Forest Supervisor's Office and District Rangers' Offices when National Forest proposals are involved; in the Regional Office and Forest Supervisors' Offices when regional proposals are involved; and in Regional Offices and National Headquarters when national proposals are involved. When Manual directives involve Forest Service Research or State and Private Forestry programs, review copies shall be available at comparable administrative offices.

**PART 217—APPEAL OF REGIONAL GUIDES AND NATIONAL FOREST LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS**

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AUTHORITY: 16 U.S.C. 551, 472.

SOURCE: 54 FR 3357, Jan. 23, 1989, unless otherwise noted.

**§217.1 Purpose and scope.**

(a) This part provides a process by which a person or organization interested in the management of the National Forest System may administratively appeal decisions to approve, amend, or revise a National Forest land and resource management plan or approve or amend a regional guide prepared pursuant to 36 CFR part 219. This part establishes who may appeal such decisions, the kind of decisions that may be appealed, the responsibilities of the participants in an appeal, and the procedures that apply. This part provides a review of such decisions by an official at the next administrative level.

(b) This part complements, but does not replace, numerous opportunities to participate in and influence agency decisionmaking provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and the associated implementing regulations and procedures in 40 CFR parts 1500–1508, 36 CFR parts 215, 216, and 219, Forest Service Manual Chapters 1920 and 1950, and Forest Service Handbooks 1909.12 and 1909.15.

[58 FR 58915, Nov. 4, 1993]

**§217.2 Definitions.**

For the purposes of this part—

*Appellant* is the term used to refer to a person or organization (or an authorized agent or representative acting on their behalf) filing a notice of appeal under this part.

*Deciding Officer* means the Forest Service line officer who has the delegated authority and responsibility to